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(72) Inventor: **Mochizuki, Masaki**
Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken (JP)

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(74) Representative:
Wagner, Karl H., Dipl.-Ing.
WAGNER & GEYER
Patentanwälte
Gewürzmühlstrasse 5
80538 München (DE)

(71) Applicant:
VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN LIMITED
Yokohama-Shi Kanagawa-Ken (JP)

(54) **Cipher key and reproduction methods, apparatuses, systems and optical disc**

(57) Plural program information and a BCA (Burst Cutting Area) number of the optical disc 100 is previously recorded in the optical disc 100. A drive ID is stored in the nonvolatile memory 104a of the reproduction apparatus 104. A user of the reproduction apparatus 104 notifies the BCA number, the drive ID, and a number of preferred program information to the software house (software supplier) 110 on the condition that the user pays for the reproduction of the preferred

program information recorded in the optical disc 100. The software house 110 notifies a cipher key to the reproduction apparatus 104 or the user. A title key is calculated in the reproduction apparatus 104 in accordance with the BCA number, the drive ID, and the cipher key. The preferred information recorded in the optical disc 100 is permitted to be reproduced by using the title key.

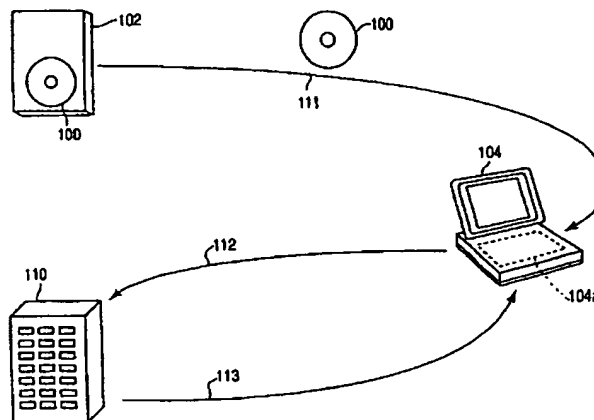


Fig. 3

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 7 October 1999	Examiner Ogor, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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